

Do you have a **story** to share?



We'd love to hear it!

St. Patrick's is embarking on an exciting new project that celebrates marriage and the many gifts God has given us through this sacrament. Over the next several weeks we will be collecting written reflections/stories on marriage from the people of St. Patrick's, with an ultimate goal of publishing these into a book. We invite you to participate!

What is the purpose of the project?

- To celebrate, as a parish, the wonderful blessings that we receive daily in this sacrament.
- To provide an opportunity to reflect on our own marriages as well as be inspired by those around us.

What kind of stories are we looking for?

We are looking for a wide variety of stories. Our marriages are blessed with insight, humor, sadness, joy, struggles and success—all of which have the potential to bring us closer together and closer to God. Topics might include (but are not limited to) how you met or got engaged, conflict, differences, forgiveness, expectations, spiritual journey, blending families, becoming parents, adopting, empty nest, celebrations, a lesson you learned by being married, what you appreciate about your spouse, disappointments, coping with difficulty or loss, a marriage you admire, watching your children get married, etc.

Sample stories are available in the parish office or at www.stpaturbana.org. Click on the "New Programs" link.

How do I submit a story?

We prefer to receive stories electronically but will accept them handwritten. You can email your story to Pat and Jim Mayer (mayer701@ameritech.net).

How long should the stories be?

There is not a required length but between 500-2000 words is a good guide. There are sample stories available in the parish office or at www.stpaturbana.org.

Will all the stories be published?

We hope to publish all the stories, but it's possible we may have some limitations based on length or number of stories.

I have a story to share, but I don't consider myself a writer.

Keep in mind that we have a professional editor who has volunteered to assist us by reviewing stories for grammar and clarity. If you can get it down on paper we can help with the technical aspects.

When are the stories due?

Stories should be submitted by April 25, 2010.

How will the stories be distributed?

The stories will be published as a paperback book and will be available to parishioners in the fall of 2010. Proceeds from the book will go to St. Patrick's.

Questions? Contact Pat or Jim Mayer at 384-4860 or Mary Long at mary.long@stpaturbana.org